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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/530,723	05/02/2000	JAMES C. BEDINGFIELD SR.	36968/171862	3234

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EXAMINER

AGDEPPA, HECTOR A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/530,723

Applicant(s)

BEDINGFIELD SR. ET AL.

Examiner

Hector A. Agdeppa

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2000 and 11 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 May 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As to claims 1 and 4, line 4 of claim 1 recites "a service switching point." Line 5 of claim 1 also recites "a service switching point." One reading might suggest that claim 1 recites two separate service switching points. Therefore, in lines 5 – 6 of claim 1 and lines 2 – 3 of claim 4, reciting "the service switching point" becomes indefinite because it is unclear which of the above two service switching points is being claimed.

As to claims 9, 14, and 17, the same objection to claims 1 and 4 is made regarding the reciting of "a second network element" and "the second network element."

As to claim 8, the claim language suggests that it is a dependent claim. However, it is written as an independent claim, and as such, in line 1 of claim 8, the limitation "the resold line" and in line 2 – 3 of claim 8, the limitation "the service call" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 – 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat 6,205,214 (Culli et al.).

As to claims 1, 2, 9 – 14, 18, and 20, Culli et al. teach a local routing system and method wherein a local service provider uses resold lines/services to provide local service to customers. (Col. 1, lines 36 – 44 and Col. 2, lines 23 – 30, Col. 3, lines 27 – 35, Col. 5, lines 25 – 55). Culli et al. also teach system operation as follows: A call from a switch, read as the claimed "switch" or "first network element" or service switching point (SSP) 31 read as the claimed "service switching point" or "second network element" is routed to SSP 34, wherein a trigger is provisioned to cause SSP 31 to query service control point (ISCP/SCP) 30 read as the claimed "service control point" or "third network element." SCP 30 receives the query and provides routing information and instructions to SSP 31 based on the resold line routing information, i.e., the local service provider's routing preferences, for connecting the call to SSP 34. The local service provider's routing preferences are defined/stored in local database of SCP 30, which identifies a location/route for completing the call. (Col. 2, lines 53 – 60, Col. 6, lines 15 – 33, 50 – 57, Col. 7, lines 31 – 45, Col. 8, lines 18 – 20, Col. 9, line 53 – Col. 10, line 29, Col. 11, line 21 – Col. 13, line 33, Col. 16, lines 28 – 32, Figs. 1, 2, and 7.)

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As to claims 3, 4, 17, and 19, see Col. 2, lines 31 – 42, Col. 7, lines 37 – 46, Col. 18, lines 63 – 65 wherein Culli et al. teach line class codes and tables for class of service identification and routing.

As to claim 5, see Col. 6, lines 12 – 22, Col. 9, line 53 – Col. 10, line 13, Col. 18, lines 61 – 65, Col. 19, lines 8 – 10, wherein Culli et al. teach the SSP gathering calling and called number for use in querying the SCP.

As to claims 6 and 21, see Col. 7, lines 1 – 6 wherein Culli et al. teach utilizing off hook delay triggers.

As to claims 7, 8, 15, 16, see Table 1 (Col. 10, lines 5 – 13), Col. 5, lines 16 – 28, Col. 7, lines 37 – 46, Col. 18, line 48 – Col. 19, line 20, Col. 23, line 50 – Col. 24, line 64 wherein Culli et al. teach routing calls to other carriers, other routing schemes depending on routing preferences and inherently an identifier for a competitive carrier would have to be used if routing was to be accomplished using a competitive carrier.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Pat 5,903,639 and 6,173,051 (Lipchock et al.) teach custom routing for multiple carrier interconnection, US Pat 6,038,227 (Farris et al.) teach preselection of service provider and functionality, US Pat 6,442,267 and US Pat Application Publication US 2001/0001012 (Culli et al.) teach a local routing system and method.


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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hector A. Agdeppa whose telephone number is 703-305-1844. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon thru Fri 9:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad F. Matar can be reached on 703-305-4731. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

H.A.A.
June 4, 2003


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